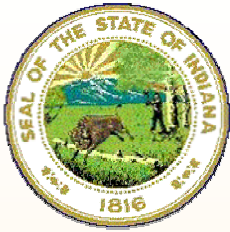


SENATOR ALLIE CRAYCRAFT



RESIDENCE

9501 E. Jackson
Selma, IN 47383
765-282-0010

STATE CAPITOL

200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
800-382-9467
317-232-9534

ONLINE

S26@IN.gov
www.IN.gov/S26

Inside this issue . . .

Federal mandates	2
College affordability	2
Senate Page program	2
'05 Legislative survey	3
Stay informed	4

Dear Friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about some of the issues facing legislators as we begin the 114th Indiana General Assembly in January. The four-month long session, by law, must adjourn on or before April 29, 2005. During that time, lawmakers will consider hundreds of proposals and make public policy decisions that will affect Indiana and its citizens for the next several years.

How to properly fund public schools, provide relief for Hoosiers most affected by rising health care costs, enhance economic development initiatives, continue efforts to retrain our workforce and create more jobs are just a few of the issues to be considered as we work together to make Indiana an even better place to live, work and raise our families.

Crafting a new state budget for the next two fiscal years will top the legislative agenda. Although we have managed to maintain solid reserves throughout the national recession, the state is facing a gap between expected spending and projected revenues. The key to managing the budget will be to cut spending by finding new efficiencies, consolidating agencies and eliminating ineffective programs. It is also vitally important that we protect services and funding for education, or Indiana will begin to lose its ability to develop economically and grow our way out of the current fiscal situation.

I would like to request your input on the enclosed survey, which deals with legislation likely to be considered. I hope you will take time to complete the survey online or return it to me by mail. Once all responses have been tallied, you will receive the survey results.

Additionally, you will find information on how to get involved and stay informed. Subscribe to receive my legislative updates online or return the form on the back page to receive them by mail. Log on to the General Assembly's web site at www.in.gov/legislative/ to obtain full bill texts and committee hearing information. You can also contact me for legislative information or if you are experiencing any problems with which I can be of assistance.

As your State Senator, it is my job to communicate to the General Assembly the issues that matter most to the citizens of Senate District 26. Most of the bills that become law will in some way affect all of us, our families and our communities. Please contact me by phone, mail or email, and let me know your thoughts and concerns. The legislative process works best when citizens get involved. I look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing you a healthy and prosperous New Year,

Allie V. Craycraft

REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 26
INCLUDING ALL OF DELAWARE COUNTY AND
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP IN NORTHEAST MADISON COUNTY

Unfunded federal mandates

Costs of federal programs could shift to states

In these tight fiscal times, a major concern facing state legislators is the possibility of more federal mandates that shift additional costs to state and local units of government. The National Conference of State Legislatures released a study last March reporting that states have been confronted with \$29 billion in cost shifts. This figure is projected to increase to nearly \$34 billion in 2005.

Examples of under-funded programs include the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the Help America Vote Act

(HAVA). I am very concerned that the federal government will continue to shift the costs of these programs to the states. Indiana's funding shortfall from the federal government is estimated to be \$480 million just for 2004. If the state had received adequate program funding over the past several years, it would not be facing a budget gap today.

IDEA was created in 1975 to provide every special education student with an additional 40 percent of the cost of general education students. The program was to be fully funded by 1982, but states never received their full allocations. In 2002, Indiana should have received a total of \$420.4 million for special education students, but only \$171 million was dispersed. To make up for the lost funding, the state and local school districts scrambled to find millions in lost revenue to provide the programs required for special education students.

These "Catch 22" cost shifts are contributing to our state's fiscal problems and are an unrealistic expectation. It is time for state and local officials to band together to halt Congress' renewed push for more state mandates.

Serve as a Senate Page!

Students ages 12 to 18 may apply now to serve as Pages while the Legislature is in session January 4 - April 29. This day off school is considered an excused absence.



Students interested in serving in the State Senate should contact my office to apply. Write to me at 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204, send emails to S26@in.gov or call toll-free 800-382-9467 and ask for ext. 2-9534.

Addressing the rising costs of higher education

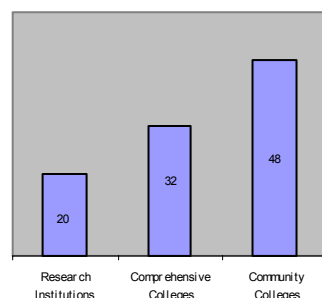
Last summer, the Task Force on College Affordability began studying the rising costs of a college education and making policy recommendations to ensure that college remains an option for all Hoosiers. Increased tuition stems from many sources such as higher student enrollment and economic problems, but this complicated issue must be pursued to safeguard affordable education.

The Task Force highlighted structural issues to help address education costs. Enrollment in Indiana higher educational institutions differs from the national distribution of students attending research institutions (e.g. Indiana and Purdue Universities), comprehensive colleges (e.g. Ball State University) and community colleges (e.g. Ivy Tech). Indiana tends to educate the majority of its students in the more expensive major research institutions, but many students might be better served by attending a comprehensive or community college. The challenge is for community and comprehensive colleges to absorb additional students at a reasonable cost.

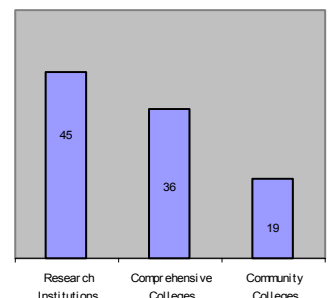
Indiana can take further action by providing incentives to colleges that graduate students within four years, instead of placing significance on enrollment. Students often take more than four years to complete their degrees for many reasons, which drives up the costs.

These are a few actions the General Assembly must consider to address lowering college costs. My hope is we will be able to enact legislation that will enable more Hoosiers to afford quality higher education.

National Student Distribution



Indiana Student Distribution



2005 Legislative Survey

Feel free to have another family member respond to questions in column #2.

You may also complete this survey on-line at www.in.gov/s26

Respondent #1 Respondent #2

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Should Indiana join several other states in a new drug-import program to make cheaper prescription drugs available from Canada and Europe, despite a federal ban on the imports? | 1. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Currently, 15 of Indiana's 92 counties observe daylight-saving time during the spring and summer months. This does <u>not</u> include Delaware and Madison counties. Would you support legislation to require that the entire state observe daylight-saving time as proposed by Governor-elect Daniels? | 2. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Should the General Assembly approve legislation to authorize video gambling machines at Indiana's horse racetracks and off-track betting facilities to support the struggling horse racing industry? | 3. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Would you support legislation to authorize the use of public funding to provide vouchers for children to attend private schools? | 4. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) test is currently given in the fall to students in Grades 3, 6, 8 and 10 to allow teachers to address what students need to learn. Some believe the test should be moved to the spring as a measure of what students have learned. Opponents feel this leaves little time for student improvements. Would you support legislation to move the ISTEP+ test to the spring? | 5. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Do you support amending the Indiana State Constitution to include language that would clearly define marriage as a union between a man and a woman, even though this language already exists in current Indiana state law (Indiana Code 31-11-1-1)? | 6. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Legislators approved the creation of charter schools in 2002, which provides another public school option. Currently, Indiana has 25 charters in operation serving nearly 3,000 students. Do you support further expansion of the program? | 7. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |

Additional Comments: _____

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey. Your opinions are very important to me!



State Senator Allie Craycraft
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2785
Toll-free: 800-382-9467
E-mail: S26@IN.gov

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
PERMIT NO 8644

Stay Informed

To keep you up-to-date on the many issues being considered by the Indiana General Assembly, I will be distributing brief updates discussing the challenges we face here in Indiana. If you are interested in receiving these periodic updates, please check the appropriate box.

- ☐ Please send me issue updates to me by mail.
- ☐ Please send me issue updates via Email. Subscribe online now at s26@in.gov or clearly print your Email address here _____
- ☐ I am not interested at this time.

If address is different than above, please print corrections clearly or affix mailing label here.

Place
Postage
Stamp
Here

State Senator Allie Craycraft
State Capitol
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis IN 46204-2785

Craycraft '05 Legislative Survey Response

Please tape or staple here. Thank you.